Aims of Education as Defined by Various Commissions and Policies in India (Easy Explanation)

Education plays an important role in shaping the future of a nation. Over the years, India has introduced many educational policies and commissions to improve the quality of education and make it accessible to all sections of society. Let's understand these policies in simple language.

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1. Secondary Education Commission (1952–1953) – Mudaliar Commission

The Mudaliar Commission focused on secondary education (Classes 6 to 12) in India. It aimed to improve school education by introducing practical learning and skill-based subjects.

Aims of Education Under this Commission:

1. Build Good Citizens – Education should help students become responsible and disciplined citizens.

2. Job-Oriented Education – Schools should teach technical and vocational subjects to help students find jobs.

3. Encourage Scientific Thinking – Students should understand concepts logically instead of memorizing.

4. Physical Education – Sports and physical activities should be a part of school life.

5. Improve Teacher Training – Well-trained teachers are necessary for quality education.

Major Recommendations:

Introduced the Three-Language Formula (Regional Language + Hindi + English).

Promoted extracurricular activities like arts, music, and debates.

Suggested different types of courses for different career paths.

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2. Education Commission (1964–1966) – Kothari Commission

The Kothari Commission was one of the most important educational reforms in India. It introduced the 10+2+3 education system, which is still followed today.

Aims of Education Under this Commission:

1. Promote National Unity – Education should bring people of different cultures and religions together.

2. Develop Scientific and Technological Knowledge – Schools should focus on science and technology for national progress.

3. Equal Education for All – Special focus on girls, rural students, and weaker sections (SC/ST).

4. Moral and Value-Based Education – Schools should teach honesty, discipline, and social responsibility.

5. Free Education for All Children – Every child should receive basic education up to 14 years of age.

Major Recommendations:

Introduced the Common School System to ensure equal education for rich and poor students.

Promoted vocational education at the secondary level.

Suggested that the government should spend 6% of GDP on education.

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3. National Policy on Education (NPE) – 1986/1992

The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986, later revised in 1992, focused on providing quality education to all sections of society.

Aims of Education Under NPE 1986/92:

1. Universal Primary Education – Every child should get free education up to Class 8.

2. Focus on Women and SC/ST Education – Special programs were introduced for girls and marginalized communities.

3. Vocational Education – Schools should train students for jobs.

4. Better Teacher Training – Schools should have qualified and well-trained teachers.

5. Adult Education Programs – Special literacy programs for adults who never went to school.

Major Programs Launched Under NPE 1986:

Operation Blackboard – To improve school buildings, libraries, and classrooms.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) – To ensure free elementary education for all.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme – Free lunch for students to encourage attendance and nutrition.

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4. National Curriculum Framework (NCF) – 2005

The NCF 2005 was introduced to improve school curriculum and teaching methods. It focused on making learning fun and interactive instead of rote memorization.

Aims of Education Under NCF 2005:

1. Activity-Based Learning – Students should learn by doing instead of just reading textbooks.

2. Inclusive Education – Schools should support students with disabilities and weaker sections.

3. Environmental Education – Students should learn about nature conservation and climate change.

4. Physical and Mental Health – Schools should teach about fitness, yoga, and mental health awareness.

5. Critical Thinking – Students should develop problem-solving and creative skills.

Major Recommendations:

Shift from exam-based learning to skill-based learning.

Introduced continuous and comprehensive evaluation (CCE) in schools.

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5. Delors Commission Report (1996) – UNESCO Report

This report was prepared by UNESCO to guide education systems worldwide. It focused on four key areas of learning.

Aims of Education (Four Pillars of Learning):

1. Learning to Know – Students should gain knowledge and curiosity about different subjects.

2. Learning to Do – Education should focus on practical and job-related skills.

3. Learning to Be – Schools should help students develop confidence and creativity.

4. Learning to Live Together – Education should promote peace, respect, and unity among people.

Major Recommendations:

Schools should focus on value education and social responsibility.

Encourage global learning and cultural exchange.

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6. National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020

The NEP 2020 is the latest education policy that aims to modernize and improve education in India. It focuses on practical knowledge, technology, and flexibility in learning.

Aims of Education Under NEP 2020:

1. Holistic and Multidisciplinary Learning – Education should focus on overall development, not just memorization.

2. Early Childhood Education (ECCE) – Special focus on pre-primary education for kids aged 3-6 years.

3. New School Structure (5+3+3+4) –

Foundational Stage (3-8 years) – Play-based learning.

Preparatory Stage (8-11 years) – Activity-based learning.

Middle Stage (11-14 years) – Introduction to subject-based learning.

Secondary Stage (14-18 years) – Flexible subject choices.

4. Use of Mother Tongue – Schools should teach in regional languages to help children understand better.

5. Technology in Education – Promote online learning and digital education.

6. Vocational Education from Class 6 – Students will learn coding, entrepreneurship, and practical skills.

7. Flexible Higher Education – Colleges will offer multiple entry-exit options and interdisciplinary learning.

Major Reforms Under NEP 2020:

Board exams will be easier and focus on understanding, not memorization.

Common entrance test (CUET) for college admissions.

Encouragement of research and teacher training programs.

Conclusion

India's education system has undergone major transformations from the Mudaliar Commission to NEP 2020. The focus has shifted from memorization to skill-building, digital learning, and inclusivity. These policies aim to create a modern, flexible, and globally competitive education system that prepares students for real-life challenges.

These reforms ensure equal opportunities for all, including girls, SC/ST communities, differently-abled individuals, and economically weaker sections. Education is no longer just about passing exams—it is about learning for life!